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PCT/EP2005/002177 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 CO7K14/475 CO7K1/14 C07K1/20 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C07K IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included. In the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Category * EP 1 234 583 A (F. HOFFMANN-LA ROCHE AG) 28 August 2002 (2002-08-28) Example 1 and Example 2: Recombinant production of NK4 and purification. STAHL S J ET AL: "Functional and biophysical characterization of recombinant human hepatocyte growth factor isoforms produced in Escherichia coli" BIOCHEMICAL JOURNAL, THE BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY, LONDON, GB, vol. 326, 1997, pages 763-772, XP002207634 ISSN: 0264-6021 cited in the application Material and methods: Protein purification, Protein folding. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means in the art. *P* document published prior to the international filing date but "&" document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of mailing of the International search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 29/07/2005 13 July 2005 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Simm, M.D.

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